

**WILLIAM M. DAVIES, JR. CAREER AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
**50 Jenckes Hill Road, Lincoln, RI 02865**

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
Wednesday, December 1, 2004

**I. Routine**

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

At 5:14, Mr. Mitchronev called the meeting to order

**B. Roll Call of the Board**

Davies' Executive Assistant called the roll of the Board.

Members Present: V. Michael Ferdinandi, *1st Vice Chairman*; John Gregory; Robert Halkyard; Deborah Lopes; Michael Marra; Domenic Mitchronev, *Chairman*; Dr. James Segovis, *2nd Vice Chairman*; Lornette Uthman

Members Absent: Richard Beaupre, James Bone, Timothy Csanadi, Carolyn Kyle

Others Present: Victoria Gailliard, *Director*; Brian Butler; Cheryl Carroll; Susan Paquin; Vicki Phelps; Gerald Suggs

**C. Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2004 Regular Session**

Mr. Mitchronev asked for a motion to approve/disapprove the November 3, 2004 Regular Session minutes. Mr. Gregory made the motion to accept the minutes; Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**D. Opportunity for Audience to Comment**

Mr. Suggs, Social Studies teacher and SkillsUSA advisor, reported to the Board. He usually presents as a SkillsUSA advisor but at this meeting he made two special presentations to both Mr. Mitchronev and Ms. Gailliard. Since the name of SkillsUSA/VICA was changed to SkillsUSA, Davies had to go through a reprocess of being certified; so the first presentation was our official charter: *This certifies that the William M. Davies, Jr Career and Technical High School SkillsUSA Chapter has satisfied all of the requirements for the affiliation with the Rhode Island association and the national and is hereby duly chartered as an official chapter.*

The second presentation, and the reason why he wasn't put on the agenda because it came in today: *Having complied with all of the requirements as set forth in the by-laws of the National Technical Honor Society, the William M. Davies, Jr Career and Technical High School is by virtue of authority given by the undersigned national officers hereby granted this charter of membership in the national organization.* We are the first and only school in the State of Rhode Island to be duly chartered into the National Technical Honor Society. This means our students, after following strict requirements similar to the Rhode Island Honor Society on grade point average overall and grade point average in their technical area, can be inducted as members into

the National Technical Honor Society. There is a list of benefits for the students, the school, and the Board could be inducted as honorary members.

E. **Recess to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to Discuss Pending Litigation and Personnel Issues**

At 5:20 p.m., Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess into Executive Session pursuant to R.I. G. L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2) to discuss pending litigation and personnel issues. Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

F. **Return to Regular Session**

At 5:35, Mr. Gregory made a motion to recess out of Executive Session pursuant to R. I. G. L. 42.46-5 (A) (1) and (2). Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Mr. Mitchrone asked for a motion to keep the minutes of the Executive Session confidential. Mr. Gregory made the motion, Mr. Halkyard seconded the motion and all were in favor.

**II. Business Agenda**

A. **Finance** – Ms. Carroll, *Business Office Coordinator*

She has the first round of budget numbers coming from the State Budget Office for revised FY05 as well as the recommended budget level for FY06. The support of the school is on a positive note. We have been keeping the powers-to-be downtown abreast of the situation of the 60 additional students coming here. We had a sum of money put into this year's budget for these kids; however, we only have five of the 40 from Providence as of this date. In light of the efforts being made to recruit these students, there is an overriding theme that we are now over-funded; therefore, there is on the table a proposed corresponding reduction of funding in the current year anticipating we will not fill those seats. The funding this year was for the one time startup costs for these additional students and next year's funding will be less in so far as it would be for the educational supplies for these students. After Ms. Gailliard makes her report later on in the agenda, the Board can concur that there is a likelihood we will not get all the 40 students from Providence enrolled this year so the proposed cuts are not major.

In conclusion, Mr. Mitchrone said the Davies leadership should have a meeting with Rep. Crowley to explain to him why we did not get the students from Providence. He may want us to then take students off of the waiting list depending on his opinion on career and technical education. They need to make this assessment because it would require a legislative change.

B. **Board Membership** – Mr. Mitchrone

1) Guy Medaglia has resigned. He is working in New Jersey and commuting on the weekends. We will need to fill his seat.

2) The union did receive a letter, co-signed by Mr. Ferdinandi and himself on November 16th, explaining to them that we have a member on the Board who is a member of the union and that is Dr. Segovis who is actively teaching and is an active member of the union and that we consider that

enough union representation at this moment. He received a letter back from them, but they didn't make the point of the letter very clear so he will be meeting with them to get a better understanding of it. He felt the Board covered responding to them by the middle of the month in the spirit that was intended, and we will go from there.

3) He wrote a letter to Peter McWalters requesting his resignation as Chairman of the Board effective 12/31/04. His two-year term will expire at that time; and it was accepted. During Executive Session, Mr. Halkyard nominated Mr. Ferdinandi to move into the Chairperson's position and Dr. Segovis to move into the Vice-Chairperson position effective January 1st. He will stay on the Board but as he worded the letter, it is time for younger people to represent the leadership of the Board.

It has been his sincere pleasure being the chairperson and he was quite honored to have been selected two years ago. He knows these two gentlemen will do a great job and he is looking forward to working with them. He will remain on the Foundation Committee but the meeting with Rep. Crowley should include the new chair and vice-chair, but in the meantime, if you look at the law, the Board recommends who comes on the Board and selects a chair and vice-chair, but the Commissioner and Board of Regents makes the final approval.

C. **Strategic Plan** —Ms. Gailliard

The Steering Committee met prior to this Board meeting. The key points of discussion were: the review of the committees' action plans and ensuring that they are aligned to the Annual Operating Plan for 04-05; the status of their goals; and the next 5-year Strategic Plan. We need to start thinking about the process we are going to use; how we are going to determine what the amendments are going to be; and we looked at having some of that information ready for the January meeting, and present it to the Board in February.

***III. Informational Time/Program Updates***

A. **Director's Report**

1) **Teachers' Association**

There was no Teachers' Association representative present.

2) **Teacher Assistants' Association** –

There was no Teacher Assistants' Association representative present.

3) **Meeting with Providence Middle and High School Principals** – Ms. Gailliard

In the beginning of November, Ms. Gailliard had a conversation with the Director of Career and Technical Education in Providence. He set up a meeting with the Providence middle and high school principals where she and Mr. Dulac, Davies Guidance Director, gave them a presentation on Davies. To give a sense of how this recruitment process is going, they didn't even know they were coming; they didn't even know they were on the agenda. Dominic Spearer and Tomas Ramirez set up this whole presentation and no one was aware of the purpose of this meeting. Ms. Gailliard and Mr. Dulac had to give them the background information about the additional

monies for the additional students, etc. Then they moved on to the actual presentation on Davies background, the admissions process, the academic and technical programs, and the Open House date. The total presentation took about 5-10 minutes the most. The high school principals had more questions than the middle school principals. The latter said absolutely nothing; there were no questions asked, no responses, and the affect was nothing. It was at that point she realized that the additional 40 students was not going to happen and she also realized that they were not promoting it. They have another agenda based on a discussion with Dominic Spearer at a C&T Directors Committee meeting. They have a proposal in front of the superintendent as well as RIDE to develop a career and technical program based on the Davies model at Hanley with the 15 million dollar bond that was passed. Providence's allotment in combination with Perkins money will go toward building repair and program upgrade.

The bond issue that was passed was allotted to all the career and technical centers with the exception of Davies, and the money has already been divvied out. The Chairman thought the money was just for building repair, but Ms. Gailliard said it was for the upgrading of programs as well.

In conclusion, based on the meeting with the Providence principals, the 12 Providence students who turned up at the Open House, and what she has been hearing about Hanley, she doubts very much that we will fill those 40 seats with Providence students. Mr. Mitchrone is not surprised because Providence will want to fill up the Hanley Center for those existing teachers and Rep. Crowley probably didn't anticipate this happening, but he still wants to meet with Rep. Crowley so that he doesn't hear about all of this for the first time at the budget hearings in the spring.

4) Governor's Visit – December 3, 2004– Ms. Gailliard

The Board was notified that the Governor will be here on Friday, the 3rd. He had some time in his schedule to speak with us. The time has changed to 12:45 pm instead of 1:00. If it is okay for those Board members who plan to be here, Ms. Sullivan will confirm it with the scheduler. The agenda for the visit is basically the first 15 minutes will be spent with the Board to discuss C & T education and Davies and then he will tour the technical programs when he will meet the teachers and students and see what is actually going on in our technical programs. He will be accompanied by some business and industry people but at this time we don't know who they are.

After the Career and Technical Expo at the State House where our graduate, Lynn Pise, gave a speech; the passing of the bond issue; and finally after speaking with one of our teachers at the Expo, he is finally interested in coming here now. We are a state operated school and he needs to see what we are doing here. Hopefully out of this, we will get more business and industry interested in becoming partners with Davies. Mr. Ferdinandi asked Ms. Sullivan to try to find out beforehand who these people are from business and industry.

5) Report on Future Student Night-November 16, 2004 – Ms. Gailliard

It was a great success. We had over 900 parents, friends, and perspective students from our five sending districts. Ms. Gailliard was unable to attend so Mr. Butler ran the show. Mr. Butler said it was so refreshing to see the number of people who came through the door who had no concept of what career and technical education is. It started at 6:00 pm but there were people waiting at the doors as early as 4:30. It was a free-flowing atmosphere where they were supplied with a map of the school so they could go to the areas they were most interested in seeing. The academic programs were set up in the Atrium so they could see the cross-education we offer here.

Every year we fine-tune the program because the numbers are getting larger and larger. The lines at the testing sign-up tables need to be improved. There is too much congestion at them because people do not want to miss out.

To add to this report, when we meet with Rep. Crowley, we need to really look at filling those additional 40 seats with students from our waiting list. The outpour of people wanting their kids here at Davies is unbelievable. Just that night, we had 500 students sign up for the entrance exams. She feels it is a crime not to use those 40 seats for those on the waiting list. This needs to be our focus if Providence doesn't act on them.

Mr. Mitchrone asked if the video on Ms. Pise's speech at the Expo arrived yet. It was such an outstanding speech where she outlined all the benefits of a career and technical education and he feels it is something the parents should see and hear.

Dr. Segovis asked how much have we invested so far preparing for these additional 40 students from Providence and the 20 from the five sending districts. The investment is a combination right now of three staff people (faculty), textbook purchases, classroom furniture, computer workstations at approximately \$300,000. We are tracking what we are spending. We are preparing for those additional students by complying in the spirit of what the additional funding was allotted for. Mr. Mitchrone commended Ms. Gailliard and Ms. Carroll for the good job they are doing in managing the whole process, but we have to keep in mind that there is a possibility of a leadership change and who is chairing committees at the present time may not be chairing them after an election. Mr. Gregory doesn't believe we need to be concerned about that because of who will follow.

Mr. Halkyard suggested reproducing the Lynn Pise video because if it is as good as he thinks it will be, we should add it to our marketing program. Dr. Segovis suggested doing a series with parents and students at the Communication Center at Bryant next fall and turning it into a marketing piece.

6) Multi-cultural Night-December 8, 2004 – Ms. Gailliard

Because this is such a busy time of year for everyone, this program is postponed for some time in the spring.

**IV. Adjournment:** At 6:20 p.m., Mr. Halkyard made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gregory seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

**V. Next Meeting** February 2, 2005

*Note: The Board of Trustees accepted these minutes at the January 5, 2005 Board meeting.*